

Selected Genre Terms (MARC field 655)

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Use MARC field 655 for terms indicating “the genre, form, and/or physical characteristics of the materials being described. Essentially, this is the term that indicates what the item **is**, as opposed to what the item is about. Subfield “a” contains the term and ends in a period; subfield “2” contains the code for the published list from which the term was taken.

For example, a book containing a movie novel is given the following entry:

655 _7 Movie novels. ?2 gsafd	[or]	655 _7 ?a Movie novels. ?2 gsafd
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Use MARC field 650 for those same terms when they indicate the topical subject matter of the materials—what they are **about**. For example, a periodical featuring articles about techniques and legalities of creating novels based on movies might have the following subject heading:

650 _0 Movie novels ?v Periodicals	[or]	650 _0 ?a Movie novels ?v Periodicals
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The following list is based on a full listing of genre terms in the 2nd edition of *Guidelines on Subject Access to Individual Works of Fiction, Drama, Etc.*, for which the MARC source code is “gsafd.” * Alternative forms for “gsafd” terms have been added for purposes of comparison. Most of these terms have been standardized in current English usage, and can be found in other published lists of terms. Be aware, however, that guidelines for the *application* of the terms sometimes vary from one list to another. The Library of Congress assigns source codes for many lists. The source code from any applicable list may be used in subfield 2. This handout includes the most commonly used: *lcsh*[†], *lcshac*[†], and *sears*[‡].
[Note: italic type is not used in bibliographic records.]

Adventure fiction ¹ <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Christian poetry <i>lcsh</i>
Adventure films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Christmas drama ⁴ <i>lcsh</i>
Adventure games <i>lcsh</i>	Christian films <i>lcsh</i>
Adventure radio programs <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Christmas plays ⁴ <i>lcsh</i>
Adventure stories ¹ <i>lcsh</i>	[Christmas poetry ⁶]
Adventure television programs <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Christmas stories ⁶ <i>lcsh</i>
Allegories <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Comedies <i>gsafd, sears</i>
Alternative histories (Fiction) <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Comedy films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Animated films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Comedy programs <i>lcsh</i>
Animated television programs <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Comedy radio programs ⁷ <i>gsafd, sears</i>
Arthurian romances <i>gsafd, lcshac, lcsh, sears</i>	Comedy television programs ⁸ <i>gsafd, sears</i>
Autobiographical fiction <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Comic books, strips, etc. ⁹ <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Bible fiction <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Detective and mystery comic books, strips, etc. <i>lcsh</i>
Bible films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Detective and mystery films <i>lcsh</i>
Bible plays <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Detective and mystery plays <i>lcsh</i>
Bildungsroman <i>lcsh</i>	Detective and mystery stories ¹⁰ <i>lcsh</i>
Bildungsromans ² <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Detective and mystery television programs <i>lcsh</i>
Biographical drama <i>lcsh</i>	Didactic drama <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Biographical fiction <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Didactic fiction <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Biographical films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Didactic literature <i>lcsh</i>
Biographical radio programs <i>gsafd, sears</i>	Didactic poetry <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Biographical television programs <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Domestic fiction <i>lcsh</i>
Black humor (Literature) <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	Dystopias <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Caricatures and cartoons <i>lcsh</i>	Elegiac poetry <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Cartoons and caricatures <i>sears</i>	Epic fiction <i>gsafd, sears</i>
Cartoons and comics <i>lcshac</i>	Epic films <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>
Christian drama <i>lcsh</i>	Epic literature <i>lcsh, sears</i>
Christian fiction ³ <i>gsafd, lcsh, sears</i>	

Epic poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Epistolary fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Epistolary poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Erotic comic books, strips, etc. *gsafd, lcsh*
 Erotic drama *lcsh*
 Erotic fiction *gsafd, sears*
 Erotic films *gsafd, sears*
 Erotic literature *lcsh, sears*
 Erotic poetry *gsafd, lcsh sears*
 Erotic stories *lcsh*
 Fables *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Fairy plays *lcsh*
 Fairy poetry *lcsh*
 Fairy tales *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Fantasy comedies (Motion pictures) *lcsh*
 Fantasy comic books, strips, etc. *lcsh*
 Fantasy drama *lcsh*
 Fantasy fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Fantasy films *lcsh, sears*
 Fantasy literature *lcsh*
 Fantasy poetry *lcsh, sears*
 Fantasy radio programs *sears*
 Fantasy television programs *lcsh, sears*
 Farces *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Feature films *gsafd, lcsh*
 Feature stories *lcsh*
 Film noir *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Folklore *gsafd, lcsh, lcshac, sears*
 Gangster films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Ghost plays *lcsh*
 Ghost stories¹¹ *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Gothic fiction *gsafd*
 Gothic literature *lcsh*
 Gothic novels *sears*
 Gothic revival (Literature) *lcsh*
 Historical drama *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Historical fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Historical films *gsafd, lcsh*
 Historical poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Horror comic books, strips, etc. *lcsh*
 Horror fiction¹² *gsafd, sears*
 Horror films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Horror plays *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Horror radio programs *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Horror stories *lcshac*
 Horror tales *lcsh*
 Horror television programs *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Humorous fiction *gsafd, sears*
 Humorous plays *lcshac*
 Humorous poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Humorous stories *lcsh*
 Imaginary voyages *sears*
 Legal drama *gsafd*
 Legal drama (Films) *gsafd, sears*
 Legal drama (Radio programs) *gsafd, sears*
 Legal drama (Television programs) *gsafd, sears*
 Legal stories *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Legends *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Love poetry¹³ *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Love stories¹⁴ *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Medical drama (Films) *gsafd, sears*

Medical drama (Radio programs) *gsafd, sears*
 Medical drama (Television programs) *gsafd, sears*
 Medical novels *gsafd, sears*
 Melodrama *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Melodramatic fiction *gsafd*
 Moralities *gsafd, lcsh*
 Morality plays *sears*
 Motion picture plays *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Motion picture serials *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Movie novels *gsafd, sears*
 Musical fiction *lcsh*
 Musical films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Mysteries and miracle plays *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Mystery and detective plays *lcshac, sears*
 Mystery and detective stories *lcshac*
 Mystery and detective stories, films, etc. *lcsh*
 Mystery and detective television programs *lcshac*
 Mystery comic books, strips, etc. *gsafd, sears*
 Mystery fiction^{15,16} *gsafd, sears*
 Mystery films *gsafd, sears*
 Mystery plays *gsafd*
 Mystery radio programs *gsafd, sears*
 Mystery television programs¹⁷ *gsafd, sears*
 Narrative poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Noir fiction *gsafd*
 Occult fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Parables *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Passion plays *gsafd, sears*
 Passion-plays *lcsh*
 Pastoral drama *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Pastoral fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Pastoral literature *lcsh*
 Pastoral poetry *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Picaresque literature *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Political fiction *gsafd, lcsh*
 Political plays *lcsh*
 Political poetry *lcsh*
 Political satire *lcsh*
 Psychological fiction *gsafd*
 Radio and television novels *gsafd, sears*
 Radio comedies *lcsh*
 Radio plays *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Radio programs *sears*
 Radio programs, Musical *lcsh*
 Radio scripts *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Radio serials *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Regency fiction *gsafd*
 Regency novels *sears*
 Road fiction *gsafd*
 Road films *lcsh*
 Robinsonades *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Romances *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Romans à clef *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Romantic suspense fiction *gsafd*
 Romantic suspense novels *sears*
 Satire *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Science comic books, strips, etc. *gsafd*
 Science fiction *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Science fiction comic books, strips, etc. *sears*
 Science fiction films *lcsh, sears*
 Science fiction plays *lcsh, sears*

Science fiction poetry *lcsh, sears*
 Science fiction radio programs *lcsh, sears*
 Science fiction television programs *lcsh, sears*
 Science films *gsafd, lcsh*
 Science plays *gsafd*
 Science poetry *gsafd*
 Science radio programs *gsafd*
 Science television programs *gsafd, lcsh*
 Sea poetry *sears*
 Sea stories *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Short films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Short stories *gsafd, lcshac, lcsh, sears*
 Silent films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Spy films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Spy radio programs *gsafd, sears*
 Spy stories *gsafd, lcshac, lcsh, sears*
 Spy television programs *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Stream of consciousness fiction *lcsh*
 Superhero comic books, strips, etc. *gsafd, sears*
 Superhero films *gsafd, sears*
 Superhero radio programs *gsafd, sears*
 Superhero television programs *gsafd, sears*
 Superman films *lcsh, sears*
 Suspense fiction *gsafd, lcsh*
 Suspense films *gsafd*
 Suspense radio programs *gsafd*
 Suspense television programs *gsafd*

Tall tales *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Television movies *gsafd, sears*
 Television plays *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Television scripts *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Television serials *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Tragedies *gsafd, sears*
 Utopian fiction *gsafd, sears*
 Variety films *gsafd*
 Variety shows *gsafd*
 Variety shows (Radio programs) *gsafd, sears*
 Variety shows (Television programs) *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Voyages, Imaginary¹⁸ *gsafd, lcsh*
 War films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 War poetry¹⁹ *lcsh, sears*
 War radio programs *gsafd, sears*
 War stories²⁰ *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 War television programs *gsafd, sears*
 Western comic books, strips, etc. *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Western films *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Western radio programs *gsafd, lcsh*
 Western stories²¹ *gsafd, lcsh, sears*
 Western television programs *lcsh*
 Westerns (Radio programs) *sears*
 Westerns (Television programs) *sears*

Similar terms used as topical subject matter with a form subdivision (650, subfields a and v), and alternate forms filed under other letters of the alphabet:

- ¹ Adventure and adventurers—Fiction *lcshac, sears*
- ² Coming of age—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ³ Christian life—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ⁴ Christmas—Drama (*sears*: 650av)
- ⁵ Christmas—Poetry (*lcsh, sears*: 650av)
- ⁶ Christmas—Fiction (*lcshac, sears*: 650av)
- ⁷ Radio comedies *lcsh*
- ⁸ Television comedies *lcsh*
- ⁹ Cartoons and comics *lcshac*
- ¹⁰ Mystery and detective stories *lcshac*
- ¹¹ Ghosts—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ¹² Horror—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ¹³ Love—Poetry (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ¹⁴ Love—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ¹⁵ Detective and mystery stories, [films, etc.] *lcsh*
- ¹⁶ Mystery and detective stories *lcshac*
- ¹⁷ Mystery and detective television programs *lcshac*
- ¹⁸ Imaginary voyages *sears*
- ¹⁹ War—Poetry (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ²⁰ War—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)
- ²¹ West (U.S.)—Fiction (*lcshac*: 650av)

* 2nd ed., American Library Association, 2000

† 22nd ed., Library of Congress, 1999

‡ 17th ed., H.W. Wilson, 2000